

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Division of Health Care Finance and Policy
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June 30, 2010

Maribel Franey, Division Director
Division of Information Security & Privacy Management (DISPM)
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
OIS/EASG/DISP N1-24-08
7500 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Dear Division Director:

I am requesting CMS data for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts's Division of Health Care Finance and Policy. The data will be used by the state as "a routine use" by the state for policy healthcare cost control and the improvement of the administration of the Medicaid and Medicare programs for Massachusetts beneficiaries. The project is entitled "The Role of Publically Financed Insurance in Massachusetts Health Care Expenditures."

Policy analysts in the state Division of Health Care Finance and Policy are compiling a cross-payer database that includes all healthcare claims for MA residents. The Division has successfully collected data from all private insurers and is now planning to integrate in Medicare and Medicaid claims and enrollment data as well. The data will be used for analyzing statewide trends in healthcare costs by payer and for benchmarking costs of care and utilization rates in population by sub-group. The results of the analyses will be aggregated tabulations that will be used to guide state healthcare policy. Specifically the analyses will permit a better understanding of the costs of healthcare as a function of provider and payer. Cross-sectional analyses will permit the comparative evaluation of costs of care by coverage type and payer. Longitudinal analyses will assist the state in understanding the effects of differential payer coverage as Medicare beneficiaries become newly enrolled. The Medicare data will be linked via SSN to pre Medicare data to measure the effect of financing shifts on healthcare delivery and utilization. The analyses will lead to a series of policy and data reports to be provided to the legislature, governor's office, state agencies and other stakeholders. The reports will comply with HIPAA and CMS rules regarding data de-identification both through the absence of PHI data fields and the censoring of reports with cell sized less than 11.

We are requesting CCW to create a finder file based on MA state of residence in 2007 and 2008 as found in the Beneficiary Summary File. Specifically we are requesting the following data files:

Crosswalk and Conversion Files

SSN Cross-walk to Bene-ID for linkage to other payers based on MA Beneficiary SSNs

Enrollment

Beneficiary summary file	2007-2008
Vital Statistics with name and address	2007-2008

Utilization

Outpatient SAF	2007-2008
Inpatient SAF	2007-2008
HHA SAF	2007-2008
Hospice SAF	2007-2008
SNF SAF	2007-2008
DME SAF	2007-2008
Carrier SAF	2007-2008
Part D event data 16 or more variables	2007-2008

Part D Characteristic Files

Plan Characteristics File	2007-2008
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Because it is my intention to link these data with data with data from other payers, we will require a Conversion/Crosswalk File for linking to other data containing SSNs.

The specific file needed is: SSN to RDDC Bene ID conversion file for all beneficiaries identified by the CCW as MA residents

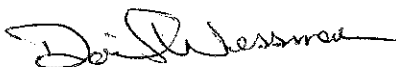
It is believed that the extract methodology results in the minimum data necessary to conduct the proposed analysis.

I acknowledge the CMS Disclaimer User Agreement that is contained within the Specifications worksheet.

Enclosed with this data request is the required documentation for CMS Research Identifiable Files. This request was developed with the assistance of the Research Data Assistance Center.

The contact person within our organization who will send to CMS the original, signed copies of the Written Request Letter, DUA, and other items if necessary, such as a signature addendum and/or letters of support is Mr. Daniel Gilden and can be reached by e-mail at dmg@jen.com or by phone at 617-868-5578.

Sincerely,



David Wessman
Chief Information Officer
Division of Health Care Finance and Policy